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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ross A. Donnelly et al.

Assignee: Synopsys, Inc.

Title: MULTIPLE PASS OPTIMIZATION FOR AUTOMATIC  
ELECTRONIC CIRCUIT PLACEMENT

Serial No.: 10/016,232 File Date: December 6, 2001

Examiner: Magid Y. Dimyan Art Unit: 2825

Docket No.: SYN-0182

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Date: December 10, 2003

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE FINAL OFFICE ACTION

**Initial Comments**

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-11 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,230,304 (Groeneveld).

Applicants note with thanks the Examiner's allowance of Claims 12-18. Based on the following remarks, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-11 and 19-20. No claims are amended herein.